

The Oscillator

The Club...wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective and established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

Est: 1978

KK7TN Paragraphs Don Stettler KK7TN

OTVARC SPOTLIGHT:

- Club Meeting - January 14
- Board Meeting - January 28
- Club Meeting - February 11
- Board Meeting - February 25
- Club Meeting - March 10
- Board Meeting - March 24
- Fifth Wed. Contest - March 31
- Club Meeting - April 14
- Board Meeting - April 28



Thank you for your support by electing me your president for 2004. Although I am a bit awed by the

responsibility I

look forward to being involved in the club's leadership for another year. Please continue to give your support to the club by being actively involved in its many activities.

Mel Sutton, KB7PVW, has been managing the monthly club meeting raffle for about three years. We owe him our thanks for a job well done. Mel is

looking forward to retirement early in 2004 and doing some traveling with Linda. To be able to do this he would like to phase out of the raffle responsibilities.

Since a recent club poll indicated that the membership enjoys the raffle we would like to continue doing it. With Mel wanting out we need someone to take it over. It would be a natural for someone who enjoys shopping. Please let Mel or me know if you are interested in administering the raffle. I am sure Mel will provide any needed training.

Having been the club's vice president for nearly two years I know first hand how difficult it is to come up with ideas for meeting programs that will be of interest to the members. Jeff Mathia, KF6CXD, as the 2004 vice president now has that responsibility. I am sure he would appreciate any leads you might have on potential programs.

I urge each of you to be alert for prospective new members. In my view, it is very important to the

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THE PROGRAM – Wednesday, January 14th

We meet Wednesday, January 14th. at 7:00 pm at the Beaverton Elks' Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton.

Why not come early and enjoy dinner at the Elks' Club Cafeteria line?

Our program in January will be worth the time to come to the meeting! Plus, when you attend club meetings you become acquainted with some of the most dedicated hams in our area.

Central California Hams Respond to Earthquake

About two dozen Amateur Radio operators aided the American Red Cross in San Luis Obispo County, California, providing radio links between shelters and the ARC San Luis Obispo Chapter office after an earthquake struck Central California on December 22.

"San Luis Obispo ARES/RACES operators were activated by the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services to help man the county-wide Emergency Operations Center and to provide backup communications support to the Red Cross when the cellular phones proved unreliable following the initial quake at 11:15 AM," said Santa Barbara Section Manager Robert Griffin, K6YR.

Griffin said the American Red Cross quickly established three shelters: one in hard-hit Paso Robles, another in

Morro Bay and a third shelter in the southern part of the county. Hams maintained Emergency Coordination Center stations at the shelters, providing 2 meter links with the ARC San Luis Obispo Chapter office. "About 24 operators were involved. By 10 PM Monday night, the primary ARC communication resources were again reliable, and the ARES net secured," Griffin said.

According to the US Geological Survey, the earthquake was a magnitude 6.5 event. Two people were killed in the town of Paso Robles, about 25 miles from the epicenter. Gov Arnold Schwarzenegger, after touring the area December 23, declared a local state of emergency for the county.

Paragraphs, from page 1

continued success of the club to attract new members, especially younger ones.

My best wishes for 2004.

Don
KK7TN

Club Events

- Jan. 14: Club Meeting (7 pm)
- Jan. 28: Board Meeting (7 pm)
- Feb. 11: Club Meeting (7 pm)
- Feb. 25: Board Meeting (7 pm)
- Mar. 3: Club Meeting (7 pm)
- Mar. 24: Board Meeting (7 pm)
- Mar. 31 Fifth Wednesday
(8 pm)

HAMFests

Feb. 21, 2004: Rickreall
Salem Repeater Association
<http://www.qsl.net/w7sra/>
Denis Miller, WC7M
PO Box 17803
Salem, OR 97305
503-507-6523
wc7m@arrl.net

LUNCH BUNCH

Our January Lunch Bunch will be on Saturday, January 24, 2004 at 1:30 pm at Elmer's, 3455 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, Beaverton.

Come by and meet other hams in this informal gathering. It's a great way to become acquainted with club members (and other hams not in OTVARC).

Guest Viewpoint: EWEB's broadband plan is no plug and play, Mark N7MQ

December 15, 2003

By Mark Perrin

An article in the Nov. 28 Register-Guard suggests that an electric utility customer will be able to obtain Internet service on existing electric service lines. This is known as BPL, or "broadband power line," technology. The pitch for BPL is that anyone could connect to the Internet by plugging equipment into the wall outlet.

Quotes attributed to Eugene Water & Electric Board personnel suggest that the technology is sound, currently available and works. There is a statement that BPL is endorsed by federal regulators, and a reference is made to an experiment by the electrical utility in Manassas, Va.

So, is this some wonderful and perfect technology? Is BPL endorsed by government and other groups? Is the technology behind BPL without a negative impact? The answer is no, and the full story is that the result of tests by governments, utilities, broadcasters and interested parties show serious flaws in BPL technology. BPL, as currently envisioned, will not work.

Does BPL help consumers? No. Most already have access to several types of broadband services. Will BPL lower costs? No. Any service comes with costs, and another method of broadband delivery will too.

Is this technology sound and perfect? No. The International Telecommunication Union's panel of experts analyzing the impact of BPL concluded that transmitting data by BPL creates high frequency noise impacting all users of the radio spectrum. Who is that? Users include commercial radio and television stations, business radio services, government and military radio services, police, fire and ambulance services and other emergency services.

BPL proposes to use power lines, designed for 60 cycle work, for data and high frequency transmissions. The added load would be placed from 6 million to 60 million cycles. Using electrical distribution networks for BPL data transmission would create interference, and sometimes complete blocking, of high-frequency services of private industry and the government.

One member of the Federal Communications Commission proclaimed her support of a move to "encourage BPL" by the commission. She has recently released an explanation, saying she was premature in drawing this conclusion. The technical facts of the situation made her comments incorrect.

The FCC has not acted on this idea. Current tests of BPL technology in other U.S. communities have shown a

high level of interference to existing users of the radio spectrum. Manassas has been threatened with lawsuits as a result of a decision to move to BPL technology at the earliest moment.

In just the past few days, the Federal Emergency Management Agency filed comments with the FCC objecting to BPL, saying that in FEMA's opinion, BPL could "severely impair FEMA's mission essential radio operations in areas serviced by BPL technology."

It is clear that BPL will interfere with radio, television and other portions of the telecommunications spectrum. It is clear that manufacturers of BPL equipment and technology have a desire to expand their business, to sell products. Those who put financial ventures together want something to make money. Remember the dotcom business boom and bust? These interests have a voice in Washington, D.C. Enough said?

Electric utilities have enough on their hands running their core business of power generation and distribution. Consumers can get broadband services through existing networks.

Mark Perrin of Eugene is editor of Valley Voice, a publication of the Valley Radio Club. This article appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard after Mark asked for assistance from the ARRL in replying to the original article to "set the record straight."

Amateur Radio Training and Licensing Class, Sharon AC7UK

On March 18th and April 1st, 6:30-9:30 pm at OHSU in Physical Plant Room 222 a class for amateur radio licensing will be held. The Physical Plant is located at the corner of Sam Jackson road and U S Veterans at 3310 US Veterans Hospital Road. Please be aware that Campus Drive is closed due to construction. People will either need to come up Sam Jackson road from down town or come up Veterans Hospital road from the VA Center.

Cost of the course is the purchase of the study book (\$20) and the VE exam costs \$12. The book is "Now You're Talking," and can be purchased at the class or from Ham Radio Outlet in advance.

This is primarily a "self-study" course. The first night of the course will be an introduction to amateur radio and an overview of the study book. You will then go home and have one week to study the amateur radio book and to prepare for the license test. The next meeting will be a quick review to answer questions and then the test will be administered. The class is limited to the first 25 people who register and preference is given to OHSU staff.

Please email your name; Facility (if OHSU); phone number; and, your e-mail Address to: Ed James at Edward.James2@med.va.gov or fax it to 360-759-1698. Confirmation of registration will be e-mailed. Cut off for registration is March 16th.

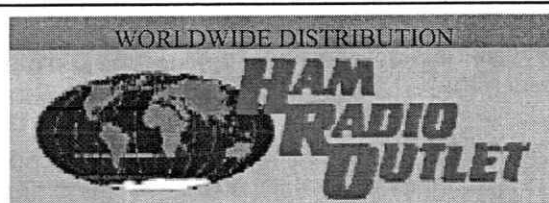
Contact Ed James at 503- 273-6006 or 360-737-1431 for more.

Other classes will be included as we become aware of them.

HAMFAIR

The 24th Annual Salem HamFair is set for Saturday, February 21st at the Polk County Fairgrounds at Rickreall, just off Hwy 22 on Hwy 99W.

Billing itself as Oregon's biggest, best, computer/electronic swapmeet, the doors open at 9:00 am with the final drawing at 2:00 pm. Early-bird registration by Jan. 10th. Find the registration form at www.qsl.net/w7sra.



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Fifth Wednesday Contests for 2004

Fifth Wednesday Contests are held four times each year to demonstrate simplex communication on two meters in Washington County and beyond. When emergencies arise, we often must communicate without the use of power mains and power-main dependent repeaters. Simplex voice communication is crucial in these circumstances.

We use the club simplex frequency on two meters for the Fifth Wednesday Contests. 147.54 MHz is that simplex frequency. Do you have the simplex frequency in your scan sequence, or pre-assigned to one of your hand held memory locations?

In our most recent contest, December 31st, stations in the county and south as far as Aurora participated in the exercise/contest.

Why not place these dates on your 2004 calendar and plan to participate (base, hand held, all power levels welcome): March 31; June 30; September 29; and December 29. The contest runs from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm local time in each case. Information and log sheets are available in *The Oscillator*.

Public Service Honor Roll

The Public Service Honor Roll is a listing to recognize radio amateurs whose public service performance during a month qualifies for seventy or more total points in six categories (as reported to their Section Managers). Note that there are maximum points for each category:

- Participating in a public service net, using any mode. 1 point per net session; maximum 40.
- Handling formal messages (radiograms) via any mode. 1 point for each message handled; maximum 40.
- Serving in an ARRL-sponsored volunteer position: ARRL Field Organization appointee or Section Manager, NTS Net Manager, TCC Director, TCC member, NTS official or appointee above the Section level. 10 points for each position; maximum 30.
- Participation in scheduled, short-term public service events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, parades, simulated emergency tests and related practice events. This includes off-the-air meetings and coordination efforts with related emergency groups and served agencies. 5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent in either coordinating and/or operating in the public service event; no limit.
- Participation in an unplanned emergency response when the Amateur Radio operator is on the scene. This includes unplanned incident requests by public or served agencies for Amateur Radio participation. 5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent directly involved in the emergency operation; no limit.
- Providing and maintaining a) an automated digital system that handles ARRL radiogram-formatted messages; b) a Web page e-mail list server oriented toward Amateur Radio public service. 10 points per item.
- Amateur Radio stations that qualify for PSHR 12 consecutive months, or 18 out of a 24 month period, will be awarded a certificate from ARRL Headquarters upon written notification of qualifying months to the Public Service Branch of Field and Educational Services at ARRL HQ.

The public service honor roll recognizes the most dedicated of amateur radio operators and those who provide volunteer time and energy to ARRL and Section activities.

The reported PSHR totals are listed each month on the ARRL Oregon Section website: www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=OR.

Why not join in the fun?

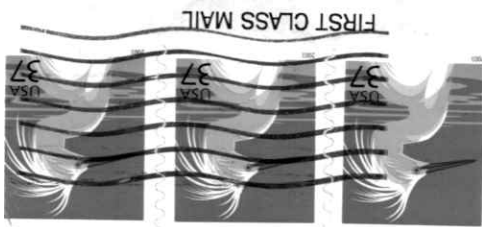
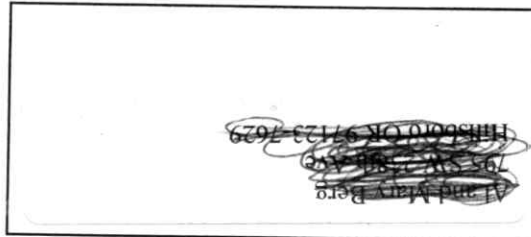


CLUB MEETING JANUARY 14TH

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Repeaters: 146.96 MHz
440.350 MHz (127.3)
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Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club



CLUB INFORMATION

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

Membership dues are \$16/year; Family member(s) of full members at same address \$21/household; Full Time students and members of two years or more at age 70 or older (Life Members) are dues free. See Club Treasurer about purchase of life membership prior to age 70. If you wish to join during the year, dues are pro-rated.

Membership applications may be found on the Club Website or on request from the Treasurer.

The OSCILLATOR is published Monthly for members. The deadline for the February issue is Tuesday, January 27th.

Happy January Birthday

- 2: Gordon KA7RNO
- 6: Patrick KC7TOA
- 8: Rick KA5OLH
- 12: Jack W7DNW
- 13: Marti W7AYL
- 16: Herb KB7SFJ
- 18: George W7ILS
- 19: Darlene KD7FUZ
- 22: George N7UJA
Jo KA7MIE
- 23: Henry N7WMW
Phil WB7ARB
Walter K7NSA
- 24: Dana KC7SNQ
Jack KA7HOJ
- 26: Sharon AC7UK
- 27: Marvel KA7TZT
- 28: Rosy KD7PGH